

Message Text

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43/61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 OMB-01 IO-10

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P 032135Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 775

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2515

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR PGOV HA

SUBJ: GOH CABINET: ANDRE AND MURAT SWITCH JOBS

REF: PAP A-36 OF MARCH 18, 1975

1. SUMMARY: COMMERCE SECRETARY MURAT AND BNRH PRESIDENT ANDRE SWITCHED JOBS IN GOH LEADERSHIP ADJUSTMENT EMPHASIZING CONTINUITY AND STABILITY.

2. EVENING OCT 2 INFORMATION SECRETARY GOUSSE ANNOUNCED OVER TV NEW GOH CABINET IN WHICH ONLY CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS CABINET (REFAIR) WAS THAT ANTONIO ANDRE BECAME SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, REPLACING FRANCOIS MURAT, WHO IN TURN WAS NAMED AS THE NEW PRESIDEN/DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI (BNRH). IN OTHER WORDS, ANDRE AND MURAT HAD SWITCHED JOBS.

3. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER HAS CHANGED HIS COMMERCE SECRETARY SINCE ORIGINALLY NAMING THE OTHERWISE CONTINUING MINISTERIAL CABINET ON MARCH 20, 1974.

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HE EARLIER HAD FIRED SERGE FOURCAND AS COMMERCE SECRETARY ON

MARCH8, 1975 BELIEVING FOURCAND TO BE INPLICATED IN THE POSTAGE STAMP SCANDAL (PAP 551), REPLACING HIM WITH MURAT.

4. COMMENT - ANDRE APPOINTMENT: ANDRE WAS APPOINTED TO HIS FIRST CONSECUTIVE FIVE-YEAR TERM AS NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT IN 1960, AND SEVERAL DAYS AGO HAD CAUTIONED US THAT HE MIGHT SOON BE CHANGEING JOBS INASMUCH AS IT WAS TIME FOR PRESIDENT DUVALIER TO RENEW THE BNRH DIRECTORS' FIVE YEAR APPOINTMENTS. IN EMBASSY VIEW, ANDRE HAD HOPED OBTAIN MORE INFLUENTIAL POSITION, PERHAPS AS SECRETARY OF FINANCE OR A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT AS ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE PREUNDENT. HIS APPOINTMENT TO COMMERCE POSITON, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT SHORT OF ANDRE'S PERSONAL GOALS, WILL NONETHELESS CONTINUE HIM IN A POSTION OF INFLUENCE, ALLOWING THE GOVERNMENT TO USE THE SKILLS AND UNDERSTANDING DEVELOPED IN PAST 25 YEARS AND REASSURING FOREIGN BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN ALL OF WHOM RESPECT AND LIKE ANDRE. SINCE ANDRE IS ONE OF FEW HAITIANS WHO HAS INSIGHT INTO IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT, HE MAY BE MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN HIS PREDECESSOR IN RESOLVING DISPUTES AND IMPROVING INVESTMENT CLIMAT. HE ALSO HAS THE PERSONAL STATURE TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE THE GOH WITH ECONOMIC POLICY INITIATIVES NOTABLE LACKING SINCE FOURCAND'S OUSTER LAST MARCH.

5. COMMENT: MRUAT APPOINTMENT: ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS QUESTIONED MURAT'S HONESTY OR GOOD WILL, HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN FIELDS OTHER THAN BANKING AND LACK OF DIRECT INFLUENCE AT THE PALACE HAVE HANDICAPPED HIM AS COMMERCE SECRETARY. IN HIS NEW POSITION AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL BANK, HE SHOULD HAVE MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE SINCE HE WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW UPON HIS EXPERIENCE AS A CAREER EMPLOYEE AT THE BANK AND 10-YEAR STINT AS MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. WHILE AT THE BANK HE WAS GENERALLY RESPECTED AS AN HONEST, COMPETENT TECHNICIAN, ALTHOUGH HE WAS DISLIKED BY ANTONIO ANDRE BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSENESS TO CLOVIS DESINOR. THE QUESTION FOR THE FUTURE IS WHETHER MURAT WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT INDEPENDENCE AND INFLUENCE TO KEEP AT LEAST A PARTIAL LID ON GOVERNMENT ADENDING FOR NONESSENTIALS AND MAINTAIN THE CONSERVATIVE FINANCIAL POSTURE ESSENTIAL FOR CONTINUED IMF SUPPORT. INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN PARTICULAR WILL BE WATCHING THIS ASPECT CAREFULLY.

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6. CABINET STABILITY - RESHUFFLE EMPHASIZES DUVALIER'S DESIRE TO SHOW GOH LEADERSHIP STABILITY RATHER THAN EXPERIMENT WITH FREQUENT PERSONNEL SHIFTS. HE HAD KNOWN AT LEAST SINCE LAST JULY THAT ANDRE EITHER HAD TO BE RENEWED OR REPLACED AS BNRH PRESIDENT NO LATER THAN OCT. 5, WHEN HIS TERM EXPIRED, BUT DUVALIER WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE, AND MADE NO OTHER, OFTEN RUMORED, CABINET CHANGES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTA02515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750346-0660
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751083/aaaacweb.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOH CABINET: ANDRE AND MURAT SWITCH JOBS
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, HA, (ANDRE, ANTONIO), (MURAT, FRANCOIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006